

Reading Assignment #3: Prematurity

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What?

Ashford et al. (2018) states that prematurity is when a baby is born early before the full-term pregnancy which is nine months, and it happens before the completion of thirty-seven weeks. Premature babies face many health challenges because the parts of their body may not have fully developed such as the brain, lungs, and immune system. All these health challenges are not good for the baby. Since premature babies are born too early, they can also face the problems of having a reduced birth weight and the reason for that is they couldn't finish completing the full-term pregnancy. They even require special care from health professionals, and they are known to be careful when treating premature babies. They monitor them to support their growth before they decide to discharge them from the hospital. Premature infants are very little especially when they are at a position to be being taken care of in neonatal intensive care.

Prematurity is a major topic in the social work field while the parents will have a hard time adjusting to their premature babies. The best thing to have with them is a skin-to-skin which will help both parents and the baby to feel relaxed and comfortable. One interesting thing that was found in this chapter is that premature babies that are being treated with appropriate care will not be behind their growth and that means they will catch up on it about three months of age. Premature babies are at risk for complications like having difficulty breathing, jaundice, and even infections because they

are born earlier than their due date. The most difficult part that was found from this chapter is that premature infants are separated from their parents so that they can get good treatment and it also makes it harder for parents to see their child being held for several weeks which could also be for months being in intensive care. It is also interesting that the isolette can control the infant's temperature which helps it fight infection and keep them safe.

So what

Prematurity is an important concept in the field of social work profession because of child development as well as health and well-being of premature infants and family dynamics. Social workers work with parents of premature infants to give them support and resources so that their child can reach the growth milestone. Social workers are well known for the concern that premature infants are less stable due to the complications of health issues which can even lead right after they are born and in the long run. Social workers are also engaged in bringing together medical care and connecting the families to the specialized care for their premature infants. They even take the time to bring the attention of emotional and psychological needs so that they don't neglect what's important for the child and the parents.

Social treatment connects to the concept of prematurity in the social work field because it has many interventions and services that social workers can provide the support for the parents

(Sheafor & Horejsi, 2006, p.5). They address the hardships, and the client needs that are faced with premature infants. The connection between social treatment and prematurity is very important in the field of social work. Its focus is to help many families that face this concern of their premature baby and the good reason that comes out of social treatment is supporting the parents with anything that they need. The birth of an early born can be a major life change for the parents because it affects their mental health, and it makes them feel stressed knowing that their child is in critical care. Social workers can provide emotional support during counseling to help ease their pain and stress.

Now what?

I would put the concept of maturity into my practice of social work to be a counselor for my clients so that I can advise them. A counselor is helping clients by advising them to understand their problem situation and how they can get over them (Sheafor & Horejsi, 2006, p.59). As a counselor role in social work, I will make sure that their feelings are valid and let them know that they can be open with me to guide them through this emotional journey. I can be a good counselor by addressing the right information about prematurity such as the consequences that may arrive. Parents of premature infants must know the medical treatment and the complications that their child will face which is why I will be there for them as a counselor to provide resources for the family. For example, if the parents of a premature infant would come to me to say that they're worried

their child might not develop properly. I will include information about their child's condition and how healthcare workers can help their child to grow healthy. Being their counselor is to also include a support system for the parents to help them reach out to their loved ones for emotional support and that is how I would help them in this scenario. In the end, the concept did not change my opinion.

References

Ashford, J., LeCroy, C., & Williams, L. (2018). Human Behavior in the Social Environment: A Multidimensional Perspective (6th Ed.). Cengage.

Sheafor, B. & Horejsi, C. (2006). Techniques and Guidelines for Social Work Practice 7th

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